



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



Prepared by the Capitol Visitor Center Project Office, Architect of the Capitol

November 1, 2004



This view inside the Capitol Visitor Center shows construction progress in the grand space of the Great Hall. Visitors will enter through doors on the upper level to a balcony overlooking the Hall. From there they will be able to descend to the floor of the Great Hall by elevators, escalators or either of two staircases (left and right center of photo) and head east toward a 600-seat dining facility or head west toward the Capitol into one of two orientation theaters or a 16,500-square-foot exhibition gallery (more than twice the floor space of the Capitol Rotunda). The bright light to the left and right of the photo is sunlight pouring through the two 30-foot by 70-foot skylight openings that flank the space.

This Week – Ongoing Work – 11/01/04 through 11/05/04

East Front Plaza Highlights:

- **Milestone:** At least one layer of concrete now caps all portions of the CVC roof deck (except for a few small areas around the fringe of the CVC footprint). The last major placement of concrete was completed on Monday, November 1, 2004.
- Soil now fills both of the rectangular zones in front of the original north and south wings near the face of the Capitol. Grass sod will be delivered over the next two weeks.
- Stone masons have now placed more than 115,000 8-inch-square granite pavers on the CVC roof deck. The pavers will cover the western half of the CVC roof deck in time for the inauguration in January 2005.
- All of the interior concrete structural walls for the visitor screening zone have been completed.
- The Congressional Auditorium's mezzanine level concrete floor slab has been placed and concrete placements continue on the lower level.
- Crews continue to build mechanical spaces, erect interior blockwork, and install utilities throughout the site.
- Concrete work has been completed for the egress stairwell adjacent to the Capitol on the north side of the Center Steps.

East Front Extension (EFE) (Inside the Capitol)

- Crews continue to erect structural steel inside the EFE and continue with demolition activities to clear the way for elevator shafts, escalators, stairwells and new mechanical systems.
- Concrete placements will continue this week on both the north and south sides of the EFE for new air shaft walls.

Truck Tunnel Construction

- Crews have completed backfilling the area above the truck tunnel along Northwest Drive except for one small area where perimeter security work needs to occur first. All the curbstones within the CVC project requirements have been reinstalled and the remaining curbstones will be replaced as part of the perimeter security work occurring concurrently within this zone.
- Crews will begin laying wire mesh this week for the base concrete slab for Northwest Drive.
- All concrete placements have been completed for the truck tunnel and placement of the final two-inch topping surface (microsilica) for the tunnel slab has also been completed.
- Trucks delivering materials to the CVC site may begin using the truck tunnel later this month.

Library of Congress (LOC) Tunnel

- Crews will continue to place concrete (more than 75 percent complete), install waterproofing and assemble formwork for the tunnel walls and roof along the western half of the LOC tunnel within the CVC site.
- Concrete placements will occur this week for the base tunnel slab on the LOC (east) side of First Street.
- The concrete slab below First Street SE has been placed.

Next Week – 11/08/04 – 11/12/04

East Front Plaza Work

- Workers will continue placing the granite paving stones on the CVC roof deck.
- Workers will continue to install utilities, build mechanical spaces, place concrete and erect blockwork to form and define interior spaces.
- All major concrete placements for the base slab of the CVC roof deck have been completed. Waterproofing may begin to occur where the base slab has cured sufficiently.



On the CVC roof deck, a small bulldozer levels soil inside a rectangular zone near the face of the Capitol in front of the original north wing. Later this month, new grass sod will be planted on the soil to re-establish the grass bed that existed before construction began. The soil bed on the House side of the plaza has already been filled, leveled and compacted and is ready for planting.

East Front Extension

- Steel crews will continue to erect steel within the East Front concrete structure. Demolition of structural elements and clearing activities will continue on all levels within the East Front Extension and in the Carriageway below the East Front portico.

Truck Tunnel Construction

- Restoration of portions of Northwest Drive and sidewalks will continue. Concrete pours will occur for the base roadbed slab along the lower portion of Northwest Drive just south and east of Constitution Avenue.

Library of Congress (LOC) Tunnel

- Formwork assembly, concrete placements and waterproofing will continue in various zones along the LOC tunnel route. Pedestrian access will continue along the east side of the work zone. Existing traffic patterns will continue.

If you have any questions about the Capitol Visitor Center Project, please contact Tom Fontana, CVC project communications officer, at (202) 228-1310, or by e-mail at tfontana@aac.gov. You can read this document and previous editions on the CVC web site at www.aac.gov.